

# Get Excited About the Wedding!

As overwhelming as wedding planning may seem, you should be having fun. Natalie Graves, president of Georgia Wedding Directors, shared with us the top five things you should know about planning a wedding.

**1.** Do your homework. Research vendors and know what the rates are in your area, so you can create a fairly accurate budget before getting started.

**2.** Work with a planning professional, if possible, or at the very least, hire someone to direct your rehearsal and the day of your wedding. This will make your day effortless. A good planner will know your vision as well as you do, and he or she is there to make your day perfect.

**3.** Only hire professional vendors! The old saying of "you get what you pay for," is especially true in the case of weddings.

## *Wedding To Do List*

- Reserve ceremony and reception sites
- Hire wedding planner
- Make honeymoon reservations
- Select invitations
- Select caterer
- Interview photographers
- Select bridesmaids gifts
- Compile guest list
- Choose gown
- Reserve hotel rooms for guests
- Create gift baskets
- Select baker
- Create seating chart
- Select ceremony music
- Choose favors
- Select wedding flowers
- Determine reception entertainment
- Make transportation arrangements



# 4.

Always meet with at least three vendors from each category, so you know you are making the best choice. Treat these appointments as interviews. Could you see yourself spending your entire wedding day with this person? If not, do not hire them.

# 5.

Don't procrastinate! Take a small corner in your home and dedicate it to the wedding. Place some large totes with lids in this corner. As you work through the planning months, stay on task and complete a "to do" list early. As you complete important items, label paperwork and place it in the totes. This will save you time the week of the wedding because it will already be packed and labeled for transport.

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## Ways to Save Big on Your Big Day

- Candles are an inexpensive way to create a romantic ambiance.
- Shop around for the best deals on formal wear or consider renting.
- Use the Internet - from wedding favors to shoes, you can easily compare prices.
- Consider printing invitations, save the date cards and programs at home.
- Trim down the guest list. The more people you have, the more it's going to cost.
- Get with the times - guests may RSVP online, by phone or via postcard.
- The time of year, day of week and time of day may alter the price of renting a facility.
- Consider serving beer and wine, versus having an open bar.
- Consider purchasing a smaller cake with extra sheet cakes in the back to serve your guests. Really, once the cake is cut, who will know the difference?
- Have the reception and the ceremony at the same location.
- Consider what flowers will be in season and use those.

